

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHERN, Established June, 1846

Consolidated Aug. 2, 1881.

SUMTER, S. C., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1900.

New Series—Vol. XIX. No. 30

The Watchman and Southron.

Published Every Wednesday,

—BY—

N. G. Osteen,

SUMTER, S. C.

TERMS:

\$1.50 per annum—in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS:

One Square first insertion.....\$1.00

Every subsequent insertion.....50

Contracts for three months, or longer will be made at reduced rates.

All communications which subscribe private interests will be charged for as advertisements.

Obituaries and tributes of respect will be charged for.

Boers Drive the British

From Colesburg District.

Unknown Force of Enemy

Near British Line of

Communication.

London, Feb 14, 4.20 a. m.—The

news of the day is enforced retire-

ment of the British from the Coles-

burg district, under heavy Boer

pressure and probably after brisk

fighting. Thus, at a time when Lord

Roberts is apparently about to push

an army into the Free State, the

Boers make a counter stroke in an

unknown but seemingly great force

not far from the vital line of railway

connecting DeAar and Orange river.

Military observers do not regard

this as more than a menace. Never-

theless, the news produces an un-

pleasant impression here. Gen

French had maneuvered the Boers

out of Rensburg in December. On

Jan 1st it was reported that he could

take Colesburg in two days with rein-

forcements. These were sent, but

the Boers also were reinforced.

Since then the British lines have

been extended east and west, so that

at the opening of this week they

constituted a great horseshoe, 25

miles in length. The lines were not

continuous but all the strong posi-

tions were held.

Gen French when he joined Lord

Roberts, presumably took most of

his cavalry, but Commandment

De Laere with a double turning

movement has compelled the British

to concentrate at Rensburg besides

threatening Lord Roberts' commu-

nications.

The Boer mastery of the district

has caused a spread of the insurrec-

tion, but this, no doubt, will be

promptly repressed, as large British

forces are a valuable not far away.

The indications as to Gen Buller's

immediate intentions are contradic-

tory. One informant, who has inti-

mate relations with the war office,

predicts a movement within the next

two days. A number of correspond-

ents who have been with Gen Buller,

however, have gone to Durban for a

few days rest, under the impression

that nothing is to be done immedi-

ately.

The war office has directed the

light division of 10,000 men to pre-

pare to go out.

London, Feb 13.—The cessation of

war news from South Africa is taken

to indicate that the British prepara-

tions for a move from Modder river

are about completed and that import-

ant events can be anticipated within

a few days. Interest centres almost

wholly upon Field Marshal Roberts,

especially since Gen Buller's report

of his withdrawal from Vaal Krantz

came, for the first time, through Lord

Roberts, showing that all the differ-

ent operations over the wide field

will hereafter be completely coordi-

nated. It is now known that the

military attaches have gone to join

Lord Roberts at the Modder river,

another move prelude an advance.

A dispatch from the Modder river

announces the arrival there of 1,400

refugees from the Barkly West dis-

trict. They had been ordered away

by the Boers because they refused to

join the republicans. The refugees

reached the Modder river, via Ko-

doosberg. It is learned that 200

Boers were killed or wounded during

Gen MacDonald's reconnaissance.

There is no confirmation of the re-

ported sortie of British troops from

Lady Smith nor of the Boer outflank-

ing movement.

A report comes from Durban that

British artillery forced the Boers to

evacuate their camp on Hlangwana

hill, south of Colenso.

The absence of Gen French from

the Rensburg district seems to have

given the Boers an opportunity for

renewed activity. They have appar-

ently commenced an extended at-

tack on the British lines and are

meeting with minor successes which

are having considerable moral effect

on the border colonies.

The Boer invasion of Zululand is

causing keen anxiety. Apart from

the fact that it threatens Gen Buller's

supplies, it is difficult to believe that

the Zulus can long be kept quiescent

while their cattle are confiscated and

their country overrun by their heret-

ic foes.

The friends of Cecil Rhodes are

becoming alarmed at his possible

fate and have sent an emissary to see

Dr Leyds, the diplomatic agent of the

Boers in Europe, in regard to the

probable course the Boers would

pursue in the event of his capture.

Dr Leyds assured the intermediaries

that the Boers did not intend to kill

Mr Rhodes, but he added they would

certainly hold him as a hostage until

the indemnity for the Jameson raid

was paid. In view of the develop-

ments since the raid, the Boers have

also decided to double the amount of

the indemnity demanded, so Mr

Rhodes' friends will have to hand over

\$10,000,000 before he is released.

It is also learned definitely that Dr

Jameson is still at Ladysmith, in

spite of the conflicting reports.

A semi official paragraph published

in the Globe this afternoon says

Germany does not contemplate inter-

vention.

The German government, it is add-

ed, does not consider itself concerned

in the future status or in the exist-

ence of the Boer republic.

Roberts' Army Moving in

Two Sections.

London, Feb 15, 4.20 a. m.—The

British army, for the first time since

the war began, is inside the Boer

frontier. Lord Roberts with the least

40,000 infantry, 7,000 cavalry and

150 guns, has turned the Magersfont-

ein lines before which the British

forces have been encamped for ten

weeks and, with half of his corps, he

is already operating on Free State

territory.

A battle has not yet been fought,

but large tactical advantages have

been gained. The relief of Kimber-

ley is within measurable reach, and

the way to Bloemfontein is appreci-

ably easier.

The dispatches of Lord Roberts

sketch three days' work. The forward

movement began on Sunday,

when Col Hannay set out with a

brigade of mounted infantry for

Ramah, on the Riet, eight miles from

Jacobsdal, one of the Boer supply

bases.

On Monday Gen French, with the

Cavalry division, seized the crossing

of the Riet river at Dekit's drift,

south of Jacobsdal and 18 miles east

Honey Nest kloof. He skirmished

with the Boers and cleared the way

for 20,000 infantry who followed

across.

Gen French has now fixed himself

on Gen Cronje's main line of com-

munications with Bloemfontein and

20,000 infantry, with 72 guns,

are being pushed up to support him

there.

Lord Roberts dispatches wired

from inside the Free State and on the

Riet river, left him Wednesday morn-

ing. His advance had not been op-

posed by the Boers in force. Their

patrols melted away as the Boers

moved forward. The Boer army is

likely to be felt in a day or two

and a battle is consequently immi-

nent.

As to what forces Gen Cronje has

now at his disposal and as to where

he purposes making a stand against

the invaders no one here connected

with the war office knows anything.

The data for conceptions are wholly

wanting.

The forces immediately at the dis-

posal of Lord Roberts are placed

at 50,000 in a general way. The in-

cidents at Rensburg have been seen

out of all proportion. Merely skele-

ton lines were maintained there while

troops were being secretly and rapid-

ly concentrated on the Modder river.

The facility with which 30,000 men

have already been sent beyond the

rail terminus shows that Lord

Kitchener has been fully successful in

organizing transport. He is now sup-

posed to be down the line, sending

forward more troops and getting to

gether more transports. About

five miles of ox and mule wagon

trains are estimated for each division,

so that Lord Kitchener, who is re-

puted to have more skill than a circus

manager in managing field transport,

has immense labors in hand.

ACTIVE ABOUT LADYSMITH.

London, Feb 15.—The Daily Tele-

graph has received the following dated

Tuesday from its special correspondent

at Free:

On Sunday the Boers advanced

down the Ladysmith road toward

Potgieter's. Three hundred men on horse

back, with others, proceeded to a point

where they began to construct new

trenches of right angles to the road.

This was about two miles north of the

drift.

A party of Boers also crossed the

Tugela, now very low, about six miles

below Potgieter's drift, where they

sniped the South African Light Horse,

who repulsed them.

"Several other skirmishes have taken

place, and the Boers are evidently an-

xious about their positions. They have

been throwing up defensive works from

Triebhardt's drift and the Spion Kop

range eastward to the Hlangwana and

Monte Cristo hills, both on this side of

the Tugela. They have also two if not

three, wooden bridges spanning the

Tugela in the bend, and a wire rope

apparatus for the conveyance of food

and ammunitions across the river."

SKIRMISH AT SPRINGFIELD.

London, Feb 14, 11.35 p. m.—The

war office has issued the following

message from Lord Roberts, received

this evening:

"Dekit's drift, Feb 14, 8.10 a. m.

General French left this point at 11.30

yesterday morning with three brigades

of cavalry, horse artillery and mounted

infantry, including several colonial

contingents in order to seize a crossing

of the Modder, distant about 25 miles.

He reports by dispatch dated 5.35 p.

m., that he has forced a passage of

Clip drift and occupied the hills north

of the river, capturing three of the

enemy's laagers with their supplies,

while General Gordon, of the Fifteenth

Hussars, with his brigade who had

made a feint at Rondevaal drift, four

miles west, has seized it and a second

drift between that and Clip drift,

together with two more laagers.

"General French's performance is

brilliant, owing to the excessive heat

and a blinding dust storm which raged

during the latter part of the day.

"Owing to the rapidity of his move-

ments, General French met with but

<